

Application No. 09/398,963

from U.S. Patent No. 5,382,983, which is incorporated by reference into the specification. In addition, Applicants have enclosed herewith an Abstract as required by 37 CFR § 1.72(b).

Oath/Declaration

On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner found Applicants' oath or declaration defective as failing to include the inventor's signature. Applicants submit a properly executed oath/declaration with this response.

Drawings

On Page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 183(a) as allegedly failing to show every claimed feature of the invention. In Examiner also objected to the drawings on the basis of various formalities. Applicants have added a new Fig. 1 and amended the drawings to place them in better form. The new Fig. 1 is Fig. 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,382,983, which is incorporated by reference into the specification. Please see the accompanying Request for Approval of Drawing Change. Applicants amendments have added no new matter.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

On page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,610,653 to Abecassis.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a system for restricting access to television programs comprising an input for accepting cursor movement and selection commands, a display that depicts a two dimensional matrix composed of rows and columns of tiles, wherein either the rows of tiles or the columns of tiles correspond to overall program ratings and either the rows of tiles or the columns of tiles correspond to specific program content indications and depicts highlighting of individual tiles or groups of tiles based on the cursor movement commands, and means for blocking or allowing viewing of television programs based on the overall program ratings and specific content ratings of the rows and columns corresponding the highlighted tiles when a selection command is entered into the input.

Abecassis is directed to a video method and system for automatically tracking a viewer defined target within a viewer defined window of a video image by selecting a target within a video. According

to the Examiner, Abecassis discloses all of the features of Applicants' claim 1 except Abecassis does not disclose columns of program ratings. To make up for this deficiency, the Examiner alleges that the coding scheme of Abecassis is "somewhat analogous" to the well-known MPAA rating scheme, and that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the coding scheme of Abecassis to arrive at Applicants' claim 1.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, amongst other factors, the Examiner has the burden of showing that there was some suggestion or motivation, either in the Abecassis itself or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify Abecassis to arrive at Applicants' invention, and Abecassis teaches or suggests all the limitations of claims 1-4. See M.P.E.P. § 2142.

Abecassis neither teaches nor suggests all of the features of Applicants' claim 1. Abecassis teaches in Figs. 1A and 4A a viewer's content preferences selection screen 401 specific to the content of a selected video. The screen provides the viewer the opportunity to establish the level of explicitness in a number of different content categories (e.g. profanity, violence, bloodshed, monsters, nudity, sex). However, Abecassis neither teaches nor suggests the display of "a two dimensional matrix ... of rows and columns of tiles, wherein either the rows of tiles or the columns of tiles correspond to overall program ratings and ... specific program content indications." The Examiner alleges that the coding scheme of Abecassis is analogous to an MPAA rating scheme, however, in the context of Applicants' invention, the coding scheme of Abecassis is analogous, if not identical, to Applicants' content codes as shown in Fig. 23a. Thus, the coding scheme of Abecassis could not represent both the overall program rating and specific content indications of Applicants' invention, as "each grid tile [of Applicants' invention] represents a particular combination of a TV Rating Code and a TV Content Code." (Specification, page 13, lines 22-23). Further, Applicants' invention enables the user to custom define the TV Rating codes, or in the alternative, the MPAA Rating codes, to block or unblocking programs according to various combinations of content codes. Such feature is neither taught nor described in Abecassis. Instead, Abecassis only teaches "establishing the level of explicitness" in a particular content category. (See Column 16, line 15). Therefore, Applicants submits that Abecassis neither teaches nor suggests all of the features of Applicants' claim 1.

Claims 2-4 either directly or indirectly dependent from claims 1, and therefore, include all the limitations therefrom. Accordingly, these claims are allowable for the same reasons set forth above as well as the additional limitations they contain therein.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections under §103 over Abecassis be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 5-13 have been added to more completely cover certain aspects of the invention. Support for these claims are found in the specification and the drawings.


Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and a timely indication for allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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